

Remarks

Claims 25 – 46 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 24 were previously cancelled. By this Response, Claims 25, 26, 30, 32, 36, 37, and 45 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 27, 28, 31, 33 – 35, 38 – 42, 44, and 46 have been amended.

In the Office Action of June 4, 2007, it was indicated by the Examiner that claims 27, 38, 41, and 44 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of their respective base claims and intervening claims. The Examiner is thanked for this indication of allowable subject matter.

By this Response and Amendment, claims 27, 38, 41, and 44 have been amended to be in independent form, and to recite all of the limitations of their respective base claims and intervening claims, which are accordingly cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 27 has been further amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection of base claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Independent claim 45 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. All other pending claims have been made to depend directly or indirectly from now-allowable claims 27, 38, 41, and 44. No new matter has been added.

Thus, as claims 27, 38, 41 and 44 are in allowable independent form, and as all other claims pending in the application depend directly or indirectly from these four independent claims, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the above cancelled claims in one or more continuing applications.

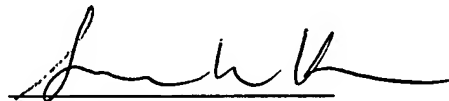
Three independent claims were originally paid for. As four independent claims are presented herewith, a check in the amount of \$100.00 for one excess independent claim under 37 CFR 1.16(h) accompanies this response.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for immediate allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,
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